

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 1, 2005

LR 2

order to get land for this project, the subdivision cannot use its power of eminent domain to take it. If it's stopped there, I wouldn't have any problem. But my language is designed to qualify that to make it clear that this is not a blanket exemption from the power of eminent domain which the public...the political subdivision would have under all other circumstances. If you look on your gadget, you'll see I have another amendment that I'm offering. It's up there, and it touches the area that Senator Beutler talked about. On page 2, in line 25, my amendment would say strike the word "primarily." And after the word "for," put "any." Then you could not have a project which was used for any sectarian study or as a place for devotional activities and so forth. That would make it clear that there's going to be no entanglement between the state and these private operations, many of which have found stratagems for circumventing the rule of separating church and state. My good friend Senator Brashear, the "Silver Fox," has helped some religious entities navigate around that by saying the state can give money to students who, in turn, will give it to a religious school. And that circumvents the requirement that the state not give aid to these private and parochial schools or the religious ones. So they can find a way around it and they will, and some have probably plotted and calculated how they're going to do it already, and that might be why they wanted the word "primarily" there. That means when you say "primarily" that there can be some sectarian instruction, there can be that kind of study. It can be a place for some devotional activities. There can be some religious worship. I don't think there should be any of it. And any of those operations that are going to undertake a project, just let them go out and beg and hustle money like religious outfits always do. But the provision that is before us right now, the amendment that is under discussion, is the one that relates to the question of condemnation. If you have any questions to put to me relative to that, I will answer them to the best of my ability. And if I can't answer them with the collective knowledge on this floor relative to the subject of condemnation, I'm sure we can get any question adequately answered. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on FA139 by Senator Chambers to LR 2CA. Open for